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LONGRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.


R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December,

1948.



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Council Offices,
LONGRIDGE, PRESTON,
LANCS.

Longridge Printers Ltd., Humber St., Longridge, Lancs.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
LONGRIDGE,
PRESTON, LANCs.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the health of Longridge for the year 1948.

The area of the Urban District was unchanged.

The social conditions of the population and the state of employment in the district showed little change and were satisfactory. The existing works in this and surrounding districts provided sufficient employment for all those of an employable age. There was no extension of industry in the district.

The health of the inhabitants was satisfactory throughout the year.

The epidemic of measles mentioned in the report for 1947 continued in the early months of the year. The type of disease remained mild but highly infectious. There were no cases of diphtheria only one of Scarlet Fever and the district was free of Poliomyelitis.

The appointment of a whole-time Sanitary Inspector who was also Cleansing Superintendent, in 1947, paid dividends to the district by a more strict supervision of sanitation generally but particularly upon articles of food. It enabled frequent sampling of milk, visits to farms producing milk; and observation upon ice cream manufacture and storage. All foods were kept under continual supervision.

The routine survey of defective houses was continued, and repairs for the removal or amelioration of Sanitary defects were expedited. The assessment of defects in order of priority was continued.

The weekly collection of refuse initiated in the previous year proved of benefit to the district and was extended.

The event of the year 1948 was the launching of the National Health Service Act in July. Accompanying this Act were the National Assistance Act and the Childrens Act both of which might be considered ancillary to the former. These three Acts produced marked changes in the form of Local Government, which in the future may be the forerunners of even greater changes, by transferring functions previously performed by the County District to the County Councils. Hospitals were transferred to Regional Bodies and the General Practitioner Services to Executive Councils. Thus in effect three different organisations were established each of which dealt with some aspect of the health of the people. Unfortunately the provision for close co-operation between these controlling bodies was insufficient to allow integrated services all working in close co-operation.

The environmental functions and services of the Local Sanitary Authorities were not disturbed by these Acts for the present, and many of the former Financial responsibilities of the County District in the matter of Health were transferred to National Taxes or County Rates.

The transfer of so many functions from County District to the County Council necessitated, in the large County of Lancaster, the formation of a Divisional Health Scheme in which the County was divided into 17 Divisions. To these divisions were delegated many of the duties imposed upon County Councils and this decentralisation of function enabled the local administration to be continued even though the unit was of an increased area.

The adjustments of the boundaries of County Districts on the combination of districts into larger units, work which was deferred by the War, will possibly be the next step in the reorganisation of Local Government.

Physical Characteristics of Longridge.

The district is a hilly one, the main portion of the thickly populated and industrial part of the area is situated upon an eminence of some 450 feet above sea level then rising to Tootell Height of 500 feet elevation. This height is continuous with the hump backed ridge known as Longridge Fell running to the North East of the township.

Surrounding this central eminence and falling from it to the Plain of the Fylde and the Valley of the River Ribble are the more rural parts of the area where are situated the farms producing milk. These lower and flatter portions of the district being a continuation of the Fylde Plain show the same geological formation. Thus there is a superficial layer of upper boulder clay containing stones and boulders, a layer varying in depth of Middle Drift Sand, and a Lower Boulder Clay Layer. These layers lie upon rock underneath and this rock is continuous to the Fylde Coast. The clay and sand layers vary in thickness in different parts of the district.

The central part of the area has shallow layers of Glacial Drift only and the rocks which are of Gritstone, are of a permeable character containing faults which permit surface waters from the higher levels to percolate to the lower.

In the north western part of the district the rock is of shale and is not permeable.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—3285.

Population (Census 1931)—4158.

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid 1948)—3970.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)—1067.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948, Ratebook)—1292.

Rateable Value—£23,893.

Sum representing a penny rate—£98.

The social conditions :—The chief industry is cotton weaving but there are stone quarries, an iron foundry, and many farms producing milk. The population is fully employed and is, on the whole, well housed in solidly constructed houses many of them of local stone.

There are five reservoirs in the district forming part of the Waterworks Undertaking of Preston Corporation. The laboratory in connection with the water supply is also situated in Longridge.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	G. G. Wray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Whole or part-time	...	...	Part.
Other Public Appointments held	...		M.O.H. Fulwood U.D.C. M.O.H. Leyland U.D.C. M.O.H. Walton-le-Dale U.D.C. M.O.H. Preston R.D.C. Divisional Medical Officer, Health Division No. 4 (Lancs. County Council). (not in private practice).
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	V. Norman Page, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., also Cleansing Superintendent.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births

							M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	41	97
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	41	100

Birth-rate per 1000 estimated resident population (mid 1947) 25.1

Still Births.							M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total							2	1	3
Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)								29	

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age.

All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	333

Deaths and Death Rate.

	M.	F.	Total.
Total deaths (all causes)...	29	31	60
Death rate per 1000 estimated population			15.1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			10
Death from Tuberculosis			3
Deaths from Measles			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			Nil
Deaths from Puerpural Causes			Nil

An Analysis of the Causes of Death.

	M.	F.	Total.
Diseases of the Heart	8	13	21
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	3	4	7
Cancer (all ages)	5	5	10
Pneumonia	2	0	2
Nephritis	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Circulation	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	1	3
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1
Digestive Diseases	2	1	3
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, etc.	0	1	1
All other Causes	4	4	8
	29	31	60

Twenty-two of these deaths, including one accidental death, occurred in other districts and were transferred to this district.

**Comparative Table of Vital Statistics for England and Wales,
Lancashire and Longridge.**

						Longridge	Lancashire	England and Wales
Live Births per 1000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	25.1	17.25	18.2
Death Rate per 1000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	15.1	11.73	11.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 births)	...	...	...	...	...	10	39	34
Death Rate from Measles per 1000 population	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	0.01	9.34
Death Rate from Diarrhoea (under 2) per 1000 births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	3.4	3.3
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	1.07	1.02

A summarised table of the Vital Statistics in Longridge, Lancashire and England and Wales is given below :—

Per 1000 of Estimated Population					Maternal Mortality Rate		
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1000 live Births	Per 1000 total live and still Births	Infantile Mortality
Mean of 5 years. 1943—1947... ..	19.2	14.1	0.29	1.99	Nil	Nil	45
1947... ..	20.2	15.2	Nil	1.25	Nil	Nil	74
1948... ..	25.1	15.1	0.75	2.51	Nil	Nil	10
Lancashire	17.25	11.73	0.34	1.83	1.09	1.07	39
England and Wales ...	18.2	11.0	0.44	1.91	N.A.	1.02	34

N.A. = Not Available.

Infectious Diseases.

There were notified during the year 136 cases of Infectious Diseases an increase of 49 cases upon the previous year. These notifications were as follows :—

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

There were 3 deaths amongst the pneumonia cases and four cases were removed to hospital. The absence of cases of diphtheria must again be emphasised.

A table below shows the age grouping of the cases notified :—

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases

Notifiable Disease	Total cases all ages	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	20	35	45	65 or over	Deaths	Removed to Hospital
Measles	121	6	12	10	11	27	53	2						
Whooping Cough	4		1		1		2							
Scarlet Fever ...	1			1										1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1								1					
Pneumonia	9						1				7	1	3	3
Totals	136	6	13	11	12	27	56	2	1		7	1	3	4

The Control of Infectious Diseases.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

Protective injections were continued during the year as a routine measure to prevent the occurrence of Diphtheria in children. Sessions were held at the School Clinic weekly or individual injections were given to children by private practitioners.

Reinforcement doses every 4 years were advised to the parents and many of them presented their children for this purpose. Leaflets emphasising the importance of immunisation were given to the parents of babies attending the Child Welfare Centre.

The number of children immunised from 1st January to 4th of July was as follows :—

	Age 0-4	Age 5-15
By Private Practitioners	15	0
By Medical Officer of Health...	20	1
	—	—
Total	35	1
	—	—

The number of children who received reinforcing doses was :—

By Private Practitioners	0
By Medical Officer of Health...	17
	—
Total	17
	—

After July this service was administered by the Health Division to whom all record cards have been transferred.

The absence of diphtheria in the district during the year affords evidence of the efficacy of the efforts in the past years to protect the child population against this disease, and those unpleasant after effects of the disease, so prominent a feature of child diseases of the past, no longer present problems of treatment.

The general arrangements for the isolation and treatment of Infectious Diseases were similar to previous years.

The laboratory of Preston Royal Infirmary was used for the examination of swabs for infectious diseases.

2 swabs were examined for diphtheria.

1 swab for other conditions.

General Diseases.

Hospital accommodation for diagnosis and for treatment were provided by Preston Royal Infirmary, and by Sharoe Green Municipal Hospital, units of the Preston Hospital Group. Mount Street Hospital, outside the Group, provided treatment for private patients only.

The Radium Clinic at Preston Royal Infirmary provided facilities for diagnosis and treatment for Cancer and allied diseases. The Laboratory was used for diagnosis and cases requiring more specialised treatment were transferred to the Christie Hospital, Manchester.

Services Supplied by the County Council.

Maternity. The Antenatal Centre held at the School Clinic was closed during the year. The poor attendance was the reason for the closure. All the arrangements for hospital treatment where such was required, were continued.

Private beds for maternity cases were available at Preston Royal Infirmary Maternity Hospital, at Mount Street Hospital, or at Sharoe Green Hospital.

Child Welfare. The Centre met weekly at the School Clinic, an Assistant Divisional Medical Officer and a County Health Visitor were in attendance.

The number of babies on the Register was 253 and they made 1870 attendances during the year

The School Clinic (Kestor Lane), included the following sections :—

Minor Ailments, Ophthalmic and Dental.

In all sections inspections, advice and treatment were provided for children from birth up to the age of leaving school.

Minor Ailments. Sessions were held twice per week for the treatment of skin diseases, eye diseases, ear diseases, injuries, inflammations and accidents.

Parents also attended with their children for advice, for treatment, or for general management. In the year 1948 286 children attended and made 1370 attendances.

Ophthalmic Clinic for the treatment of squint and defective vision. It met fortnightly and 150 children attended and made 202 attendances.

The Dental Clinic, met two days per week. During the year 484 children attended on 1065 occasions.

The majority of these attendances were for the purpose of fillings, thus preserving the teeth, and the remainder for extractions. Many of the extractions required general anaesthesia and anaesthetics were given where necessary.

Children under school age were given treatment also.

Special Defects.

Orthopaedics—children suffering from Deformities or Paralyses were referred to Leyland Orthopaedic Clinic which met weekly, for treatment, inspection, or advice. Where admission to the hospital was found necessary such children were admitted to the Lancashire County Council Orthopaedic Hospital at Biddulph, later transferred to the Regional Hospital Board.

Blind Children were sent to Henshaw's Blind School, Manchester.

Partially Sighted Children were educated at the Partially Sighted School at Fulwood.

Deaf and Dumb Children to the Royal Cross School, Preston.

Mentally Defective Children inspected, tested and notified to the Mental Hospitals of the Regional Hospital Board for admission to special schools or institutions.

Tuberculosis

Patients suffering from the various types of this disease were dealt with by the Tuberculosis Staff of the Lancashire County Council in the first part of the year. The medical staff after July became Officers of the Regional Hospital Board whilst the Nursing Staff were part of Nursing Staff of the County Council. The work continued as before but it is not possible to say that such a set-up is likely to be permanent.

Inspections, observation and treatment were available at the Walton's Parade Dispensary, Preston, where persons of this district suffering from the disease received attention. X-rays for diagnosis and for treatment were available, and Artificial Light in suitable cases was also provided.

Examinations of sputum were carried out at the Dispensary.

In 1948, 4 primary notifications were received. In the same period 3 deaths recorded.

The table below is given for the age grouping of notifications.

Tuberculosis
New Cases and Mortality in 1948

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0
1
5
10 	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...
15
20
25
35 	1	...	...
45
55 	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
65 and upwards
Totals ...	2	2	...	...	2	1	...	...
4				3				

* Not Confirmed

Sanitary Conditions of the Area.

Water Supply, obtained from Preston Corporation, was sufficient in amount and of wholesome quality. The water was chlorinated and there were no complaints of excessive chlorination.

Preston Corporation took 40 samples of water from this district for bacteriological examination. All of them were satisfactory.

Four samples taken for chemical analysis also showed satisfactory results.

There were still thirty farms and dwelling houses not on the piped supply which drew their water from wells and springs. Some of these were above the mains level and some at such a distance that service would be uneconomic.

Refuse Disposal and Scavenging were carried on by the Council by motor vehicles. Weekly clearances established last year were continued. Full details will be found in Mr. Page's report appended.

Sewerage. The majority of the dwelling houses were on the water carriage system, though approximately a third of the closets were of the waste water type.

A census made during the year revealed the details which are given in the table below :—

Number of houses on the water carriage system	...	...	...	...	...	1067
Number of fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	...	1132
Number of waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	306
Number of privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	84
Number of dry ash-pits	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of movable ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	1249

There were 28 conversions from waste water closets to fresh water closets, one conversion from a pail closet to a fresh water closet.

Sanitary Inspections. 1242 visits were made during the year to investigate complaints or defects. Full details of the results will be found in Mr. Page's report.

Schools. All the schools were inspected during the year and no nuisances were found. It was not found necessary to close any of the schools for Infectious Disease in 1948.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. The number of dairy farms was 55 with approximately 1000 cows.

All the farms were inspected during the year at regular intervals the number of visits made being 115. Many of these visits were made in connection with unsatisfactory samples of milk, and advice was given on each occasion upon the production of a clean milk.

The number of dairymen (other than cowkeepers) was 4.

During the year 41 samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological tests. Of these 23 were satisfactory and 18 unsatisfactory.

41 samples were submitted to tests for the Bacillus Tuberculosis. Four was positive and the rest negative. One cow found to be Tuberculous was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Thirty-eight samples of milk were taken by the County Sampling Officer and tested for quality, all were genuine except five which was deficient of fat and solids-not-fat. 8 Further samples obtained from the same sources proved to be genuine.

One farm provided a new dairy.

Ice Cream. All the premises producing ice cream were inspected regularly, and eleven samples taken. Five being satisfactory and 6 unsatisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods. The details of inspections and work done in connection with these foods will be found in Mr. Page's report.

Housing Statistics for 1948.

32 new houses, 23 by the authority and 9 others, were erected during the year.

The number of houses inspected for defects was 150 and 350 visits were made for this purpose; 13 of these houses were earmarked for replacement when such is allowed.

23 houses were rendered fit by repairs by informal action and 1 formal notice was served.

Housing repairs were difficult due to the restrictions placed upon repairs and by shortages of labour and material.

Blood Donors

Sessions were held at the School Clinic and although the number of volunteers was less, sufficient attended to make the holding of these sessions worth while.

Reports Appended.

Report of Mr. Page.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. G. WRAY.

August, 1949.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year, 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the Longridge Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary work of the Health Department.

It will be observed that improvements have been made, but there is still a tremendous amount of work to be accomplished before a satisfactory standard is reached, especially in regard to housing conditions, and the drainage and sewerage of the district.

The report is tabulated and condensed, but an attempt has been made to record all the activities of the Department.

In conclusion, may I tender my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support, and my fellow officials for their willing co-operation at all times and to express my appreciation and thanks to the Medical Officer of Health for his guidance and co-operation.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Details of Inspections.

Total number of visits during 1948 (including Housing) ...	...	1242
Number of Revisits ...	...	415
Bakehouses ...	...	19
Cinemas ...	...	5
Drainage ...	...	252
Factories ...	...	52
Food Inspections ...	...	50
Farms, Dairies and Milkshops ...	...	175
Fried Fish Shops ...	...	6
Greengrocers' Shops ...	...	33
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts ...	...	150
Ice cream Premises ...	...	35
Licensed Premises ...	...	8
Offensive Trades ...	...	4
Premises inspected under the Public Health Acts...	...	116
Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	...	107
Rodent Control ...	...	94
Smoke Observations ...	...	6

2. Details of Nuisances.

Defects or nuisances :— No. Discovered 130 No. abated 115
 No. of notices served :— Informal 35 Statutory 8
 Legal proceedings :— No. — Result —

3. Sanitary Accommodation.

The following are details of sanitary accommodation existing in the district.

Pail or chemical closets	Privies	Waste water closets	Fresh water closets	Baths	Moveable ashbins
84	17	306	1132	546	1249

The following is a list of Conversions carried out during the year.

No. of waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	28
No. of pail closets to Fresh W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	1

4. Rodent Control.

The Council employ one part-time Rodent Operative who has been fully trained by the Ministry of Food, Departmental Directorate of Infestation Control.

Two complete sewer treatments^{have been carried out} and as in the past the results prove that only minor infestations occur, of the total 170 manholes baited and poisoned, only 19 takes were recorded with approximately 45 rats killed.

A total of 53 treatments were carried out to premises during the year with an estimated kill of some 600 rats. Results have proved that constant inspections and treatments help to keep down the rat population to a minimum.

5. Smoke Abatement.

Six smoke observations were taken during the year. Where it was observed that excessive emissions of smoke were taking place, the premises were visited and suitable advice given.

Poor stoking methods and intermittent firing in addition to poor quality fuel were found to be the chief causes of smoke nuisance.

6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Some improvements have been able to be carried out to several farms during the year, these include the provision of new dairies and the rebuilding of new shippons.

The following are details of Producers of Milk and Dairymen on the Register on the 31st December, 1948 :—

Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Wholesale Producers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Retail Producers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Wholesale Producers who also retail	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Wholesale Traders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Retail Traders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

There are six Producers of Accredited Milk, two Producers of Tuberculin Milk, three Retailer of Tuberculin Tested milk (2 dealers and 1 supplementary licence).

Report on Milk Samples.

During the year 41 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and 41 samples submitted for biological tests to the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory ; 15 samples were tested for sediment, the results of which are shown in the following table :—

Test carried out	No. of samples taken	No. passed	No. failed	Percentage failed
Methylene Blue (keeping quality) ...	41	23	18	43.9
Bacillus Coli (cleanliness) ...	41	31	10	24.4
Tubercle Bacillus Biological Test ...	41	37	4	9.8
Sediment ...	15	9	6	40

Report on Ice Cream Samples.

Eleven samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory the results of which are shown in the following tables :-

No. of Samples	Grade i	Grade ii	Grade iii	Grade iv
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
11	4	1	3	3

Inspections of Meat and Other Foods.

Inspections of home killed pigs have been carried out and found to be generally sound and free from disease.

Routine visits were made to Butcher's Shops and Grocery Stores, the general standard of cleanliness being tatisfactory.

The following foods were found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption.

[illegible]

7. Refuse and Salvage Collection and Disposal.

The collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage and pail closet emptying, is carried out weekly and is giving satisfaction, all dustbins are treated from time to time with an insectide which assists in combating fly breeding.

The position regarding the supply of new dustbins has improved and 43 dustbins have been supplied during the year by the Council in addition to some owners purchasing from other sources.

Salvage collection figures have been well maintained throughout the year. the average monthly collection of waste paper per 1000 of population being 24·6 cwts. against the national figure of 12·2 cwts. for all Urban Districts.

The following is a summary of the Collection and Disposal of Refuse and Salvage during the financial year ended 31st March, 1949, together with figures, where available, for the preceding financial year ended 31st March, 1948.

Estimated Weight of Refuse and Salvage Collected.

	1947/48				1948/49			
	T.	c.	q.	lbs.	T.	c.	q.	lbs.
House and Trade Refuse ...	666	13	0	0	740	5	0	0
Salvage	40	2	0	12	68	4	1	0
Totals	706	15	0	12	808	9	1	0

Cost of Collection and Disposal.

	1947/1948			1948/1949		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages	755	17	7	847	7	7
Motor Transport	564	13	6	509	10	11
Sundries	48	19	8	70	5	2
Salvage, cost of baling	183	1	2	394	17	11
	£1552	11	11	£1822	1	7
Less Income						
Trade Refuse	5	8	6	20	12	0
Salvage Sales	278	6	9	553	12	6
Nett Cost	£1268	16	8	£1247	17	1

Weight and Value of the Salvage Sold and Bonus Credits

1947/48			1948/49				1947/48			1948/49		
T.	c.	q.	T.	c.	q.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
31	15	0	46	5	0	Mixed Paper	202	4	8	260	12	7
	7	2	4	14	0	Books and Magazines	3	16	3	55	8	5
2	11	2	8	2	0	Newspapers	31	18	6	137	8	8
3	0	0	3	10	2	Ferrous Metal	3	0	0	3	10	3
	1	0		11	1	Non-Ferrous Metal	1	5	0	6	17	4
1	7	0	3	1	2	Textiles	20	6	3	45	12	9
1	0	0	2	0	0	Bottles	11	11	10	16	1	6
—			—			Board of Trade Bonus Credit ...	4	4	3	28	1	6
40	2	0	68	4	1	Totals	£278	6	9	£553	12	6

8. Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

There are in the district 33 factories with mechanical power and 9 factories without mechanical power. All the factories were inspected during the year and found to be maintained generally in a satisfactory condition.

Defects in Factories and Workplaces being Nuisances under the Public Health and Factories Acts.

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	4	4
Sanitary Accommodation :—		
Insufficient	1	1
Total	5	5

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

V. N. PAGE,

Sanitary Inspector.

